23rd September 1955]

* 2395 *Q.*—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the main grounds on which the Government restrict the movement of the inhabitants of the mainland into and out of the Laccadive group of islands;

(*b*) whether the Government have appointed any Committee to go into the question of modifying the laws of the islands in conformity with the Indian Constitution;

(*c*) whether there are any Government buildings in these islands on which the Union Jack (British flag) still flies;

(*d*) whether the Government are now exercising any monopolist right to purchase coconut and allied products from the islands and to sell them rice at prices fixed by the Government;

(*e*) whether the amins of the islands are appointed on hereditary principle; and

(*f*) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on account of the administration of these islands?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN: (*a*) The character and antecedents of the individuals. There are no restrictions on the movement of the mainlanders out of the islands;

(*b*) No, Sir, there is no need for it.

(*c*) No, Sir.

(*d*) In the islands of the Laccadive group, excluding Minicoy, the purchase and disposal of the coir produced is a monopoly of the Government. The islanders are supplied with rice in exchange for the coir, at rates fixed by the Government.

(*e*) No, Sir.

(*f*) The total expenditure incurred in 1953–54 was rupees 44,872–11–8.

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE: With regard to the restrictions put on the movement of people from the mainland to the islands, the Hon. Minister was pleased to state there were no such restrictions. But, may I know whether the Government have received any complaint during the last General Election time about certain restrictions placed by the district officials on certain political parties in Malabar?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN: Every case has been examined on its own merits and orders are passed.

* 2396 *Q.*—SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred as steamer

charges, etc., in connexion with the inspection of the Laccadive and Minicoy Islands conducted this year by the officer and his party specially deputed by the Government for this purpose?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Rs. 1,40,454–1–10.

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMMED SHAFEE : May I know whether this amount of expenditure is incurred from the ex-chequer every year or every two years? In view of the fact that the expenditure that the Government will have to bear will be less than the amount now mentioned in case a steamer service is established, will the Hon. Minister consider the establishment of a steamer service from the mainland to the islands?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Sir, the expenditure pertains to this year's inspection. With regard to the steamer service, the Government of India is being reminded.

DR. K. B. MENON : This suggestion, I believe, was made by the Governor of Madras a few months ago. Will the Government see that his recommendation is carried out as expeditiously as possible?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : The recommendations of this Government are being examined by the Government of India and they have been reminded in this connection.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, a sum of about Rs. 1½ lakhs was spent on passage by the authorities to supervise the administration. May I know what amount was actually spent on the administration itself during this period?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : A separate question should be put.

* 2397 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether this Government have suggested to the Central Government the taking over of the administration of the Laccadive groups of island on the West Coast by the Centre; and

(*b*) if so, whether the proposal has been accepted?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Question Nos. 2398 and 2399 may be taken together.

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Question No. 2423 may also be taken together.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : These questions may be answered now. We shall take up question No. 2423 later.